

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 694

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Gerald W. Gibson for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those estimable citizens who have performed their duties with the utmost probity and whose efforts throughout their years of industry were dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gerald W. Gibson is one such distinguished public servant who has served with honor and distinction during his long career in higher education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gibson will be taking a much deserved retirement from his post as President of Maryville College at the conclusion of the 2009-2010 academic year, leaving behind an incomparable record that present and future administrators would do well to emulate; and

WHEREAS, greatly respected and admired by his colleagues, President Gibson holds a doctoral degree in organic chemistry from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and previously served as vice president and dean at Roanoke College in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, inaugurated as Maryville College's tenth president in October of 1993, Dr. Gerald Gibson is credited with leading the College into its current state of historic strength; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1819, Maryville College is the twelfth oldest institution of higher learning in the South; maintaining an affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the College is known for its academic rigor and its focus on the liberal arts; and

WHEREAS, the breadth and scope of President Gibson's accomplishments at Maryville College are remarkable; during his tenure, the College constructed six new buildings and renovated twelve others; faculty and staff salaries were raised to a competitive level;

outstanding new faculty were appointed; and the size and academic quality of the student body were increased; and

WHEREAS, through his astute leadership, Maryville College has been consistently ranked among the best liberal arts colleges in the Southeast, and its curriculum has been recognized by the John Templeton Foundation's Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges and its *Colleges that Encourage Character Development* guide; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Maryville College was named one of twelve "Founding Institutions" selected to participate in a national project known as the Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year, and *U.S. News & World Report* included the College's First-Year Experience in its *Programs to Look For* category in 2005; and

WHEREAS, President Gibson guided the creation of the ambitious Maryville College 2000 Plan, which outlined eleven strategic goals and sixty specific objectives to be completed by the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, highlights of the successful campaign, which concluded in 2000, are the renovation and expansion of Bartlett Hall for use as a student center and the complete restoration of the century-old Center for Campus Ministry; and

WHEREAS, the College's current fundraising initiative, the Our Window of Opportunity campaign, has raised \$76 million of its \$83 million goal; included in the campaign is fundraising for the \$47 million Clayton Center for the Arts, which is expected to open to the public in the spring of 2010; and

WHEREAS, an active and important member of the Blount County community, Dr. Gibson serves on the boards of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, the Tennessee Resource Valley, the Knoxville Symphony Society, the East Tennessee Foundation, and is a member of Leadership Blount's Class of 1994 and Leadership Knoxville's Class of 1995; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gibson is a member of New Providence Presbyterian Church, which he has served in a number of capacities over the years; and

WHEREAS, he is also deeply devoted to his family and is most appreciative of the love, support, and companionship he shares with his wife, Rachel, and their two children, Laura and Paul, who both hold degrees from Maryville College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gibson exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career at Maryville College, President Gibson has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, staff, and students alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and thank Dr. Gerald W. Gibson for his many years of meritorious service to Maryville College, commend his laudable service to the good people of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.